



# SLEEPING BEAR DUNES

## National Lakeshore • Michigan

Newsletter 3

General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

Spring 2001

### ALTERNATIVES WORKBOOK

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, we have been working on a general management plan (GMP) for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore that will provide a vision for the future of the Lakeshore and guide our long-term decision-making. It has been a while since you have heard from us regarding this planning effort, but I assure you we have been busy and are now ready to share our work with you.

Using your comments, and ideas and recommendations from the entire staff of the Lakeshore, we are beginning to formulate some preliminary ideas about how Sleeping Bear Dunes might look in the future. Different visions of the future Lakeshore are presented in this newsletter in the form of four preliminary alternatives. Eventually, we will settle on a single vision for the Lakeshore's future; but we are a long way from making that decision.

The alternatives will continue to evolve over the coming months and you will have several opportunities to provide input. Your comments will help us improve the alternatives and make sure that important considerations are not overlooked. You may offer your comments on the enclosed response form, submit them via the internet, or discuss them with the planning team at the open houses during the week of June 11th, 2001.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say farewell to my many friends at Sleeping Bear Dunes. I am transferring to a new position as superintendent of Buffalo National River in Arkansas. Until a new superintendent is selected for Sleeping Bear, Dan Krieber, of the Lakeshore staff, will serve as acting superintendent.

Thank you again for your continued interest and involvement with Sleeping Bear Dunes.

Sincerely,

Ivan D. Miller  
Previous Superintendent

Dan Krieber  
Acting Superintendent



## PROGRESS IN THE PLANNING EFFORT

Last May in Newsletter 2, we introduced preliminary **Purpose and Significance Statements** for the Lakeshore, summarized the desires and concerns of the public and park staff into a set of four general questions called **Decision Points**, and summarized comments from Newsletter 1 (the first two items are repeated in this newsletter). In two separate workshops in June and August the GMP planning team met to brainstorm possible **Management Zones** and **Alternatives** which reflect different future visions for the Lakeshore. In January the entire staff of the Lakeshore provided invaluable input on the Management Zones and Alternatives through participation in an All Employee Alternatives Development Workshop. The results of all of that work are represented in this newsletter in a very preliminary format. The planning team is addressing the ideas of Lakeshore staff and the public in the development of the GMP.

### PURPOSE & SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

Purpose and Significance Statements reaffirm our understanding of Congress' intent in setting the Lakeshore aside as a unit of the national park system, and confirm the importance of the area to the nation's natural and cultural heritage. **Purpose Statements** represent the reasons the Lakeshore was established, and come directly from the Lakeshore's enabling legislation and other laws. **Significance Statements** describe the Lakeshore's distinctiveness and help to place it in its regional and national context.

Much input has gone into improving the Purpose and Significance Statements presented in Newsletter 2. Following are the latest versions that are still referred to as preliminary because you may still provide comments on them. **These statements form the foundation for the Lakeshore and the GMP.**

#### Purpose

**Preserve outstanding natural features, including forests, beaches, dune formations, and ancient glacial phenomena in their natural setting and protect them from developments and uses that would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area.**

**Protect scenic, scientific, and historic features that contribute to the benefit, inspiration, education, recreation, and enjoyment of the public.**

#### Significance

**The Lakeshore contains compactly grouped features of continental glaciation, including post glacial shoreline adjustment, dune/swale complex, wind formed dunes, perched dunes, and examples of associated plant succession. These features are of global importance due to their relatively unimpacted state, the variety of features present, their proximity to one another, and their protected status.**

**The Lakeshore is one of the most scenic and publicly accessible portions of the Lake Michigan shoreline. It's massive glacial headlands, diverse habitats, and superb water resources offer a broad range of inspirational, educational, and recreational opportunities.**

**The Lakeshore's historic maritime, recreation, and agricultural landscapes are of a size and quality that are unique on the Great Lakes and rare elsewhere on the United States coastline.**

**The Lakeshore's plants and animals, ecological processes, and habitat structure are representative of pre-Columbian times, and of a scale and quality unique to the Great Lakes shoreline. The Lakeshore also includes regionally important native flora and fauna; some of which have declined to an endangered, threatened, or rare status in the Great Lakes ecosystem.**

The **Preliminary Management Zones** are:

- Visitor Services Zone
- Natural Resource Recreation Zone
- Historic Restoration Zone
- Scenic Corridor Zone
- Backcountry Zone
- Cultural Landscape Zone
- Primitive Zone
- Ecologically Sensitive Zone
- Administrative Zone

The accompanying maps illustrate each alternative and show in more detail how the Lakeshore could be managed by the application of these management zones (the adjacent matrix offers more details on the management zones).

As you evaluate the various alternatives and maps, you will note that our planning effort has considered cooperative efforts with entities outside of the Lakeshore in order to assess ways in which resource protection or visitor experience may be enhanced. These are only preliminary ideas and in no way suggest NPS influence over areas or entities outside of the Lakeshore. If these early ideas were adopted as part of the final plan, the Lakeshore would work in a cooperative effort with local units of government and the private sector to see if they could be implemented. We also recognize that there are both privately owned and leased properties within the Lakeshore boundary. For simplicity of mapping, these parcels have not been excluded from the management zones.

These alternatives and management zones may contain some inconsistencies, specific treatments may not be explained, and/or ideas may not be fully developed. This information presented is VERY preliminary and we need your input to fully refine the alternatives and management zones.

Please review the following preliminary management zones and alternatives. Please check to see if your ideas are reflected. If not, we need to know what we missed so that we can make sure our management zones and alternatives are comprehensive and will allow us to explore the widest possible range of options. (Keep in mind, that in a GMP, the level of detail will remain fairly broad. For example, the GMP may identify the appropriateness of certain activities such as hiking or bicycling in general areas of the park, but may not identify specific locations or routes.) It is possible that you may like some but not all the elements of one alternative, or you may like a concept but disagree with the way we have translated it by the application of management zones. Maybe you have an entirely different vision that would address Lakeshore issues. **We need to know the reasons for your likes and dislikes.** With your comments we can reevaluate the number and scope of the management zones and alternatives and modify them as necessary. This is the kind of feedback that will help us formulate the best possible future for the Lakeshore.

PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT ZONES			
	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Development
<b>Visitor Services Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in previously disturbed areas, areas of low resource integrity, or areas with relatively durable resources which could be modified for visitor support facilities</li> <li>• Moderate resource impacts would be allowed to support visitor activities</li> <li>• Cultural resources could be adapted or rehabilitated to support visitor activities</li> <li>• Natural resources could be actively managed and modified to support visitor activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High visitor encounters</li> <li>• Visitors engaged in education, orientation and other structured activities requiring developed facilities</li> <li>• Low to moderate exertion</li> <li>• A lot of on-site interpretation</li> <li>• High noise tolerance</li> <li>• High interaction with NPS staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level of development consistent with resource protection</li> <li>• Destination-oriented visitor facilities (e.g., visitor centers, museums, staging areas, developed campgrounds)</li> <li>• Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, fencing, barriers, pedestrian paths) would be necessary to protect sensitive resources</li> <li>• Highly accessible</li> </ul>
<b>Natural Resource Recreation Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located in areas where resources could support visitor activities with only moderate impacts</li> <li>• Natural resources could be managed or modified to support visitor activities, but would be protected to the degree possible and would appear natural</li> <li>• Cultural resources could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed, or allowed to molder</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High visitor encounters</li> <li>• Visitors engaged in recreation activities in natural areas (e.g. hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, boating, canoeing, horseback riding)</li> <li>• Hunting would only be permitted in designated locations by superintendent’s authorization</li> <li>• Moderate time commitment</li> <li>• Moderate exertion</li> <li>• Minimal on-site interpretation</li> <li>• High noise tolerance</li> <li>• Moderate interaction with NPS staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate level of development</li> <li>• Facilities for support of visitor activities (e.g., restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways, trails, benches, picnic tables)</li> <li>• Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) may be necessary to protect sensitive resources</li> <li>• Moderate accessibility</li> </ul>
<b>Historic Restoration Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management emphasis would be on restoring or maintaining the character of the historic period</li> <li>• Cultural resources would be restored to a specific time period for visitor understanding</li> <li>• Natural resources would be managed consistent with the cultural period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High visitor encounters</li> <li>• Visitors engaged in structured interpretive activities (e.g., guided, brochure or audio tape tours; living history programs)</li> <li>• Moderate time commitment</li> <li>• Low exertion</li> <li>• A lot of on-site interpretation</li> <li>• Some off-site interpretation</li> <li>• Moderate noise tolerance</li> <li>• High interaction with NPS staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpreted areas including historic buildings, structures, and other landscape characteristics and features would be restored</li> <li>• Restored cultural area with necessary protection/security and HVAC for resource protection and use</li> <li>• Development (including interpretive media) would be consistent with historic restoration</li> <li>• Moderate accessibility</li> </ul>
<b>Scenic Corridor Zone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scenic, visually appealing natural and cultural backdrop</li> <li>• Located in non-sensitive resource areas, but could provide visual access to sensitive resources</li> <li>• Natural or cultural resources could be moderately impacted to support visitor activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High visitor encounters</li> <li>• Visitors engaged in transit or sightseeing activities by car, bicycle, watercraft, or other conveyance</li> <li>• Moderate time commitment</li> <li>• Low exertion</li> <li>• Some on-site interpretation</li> <li>• Some off-site interpretation</li> <li>• Moderate noise tolerance</li> <li>• Low interaction with NPS staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate level of development to support visitor access, transit, interpretive activities, and sightseeing (e.g., roads, trails, parking, restrooms, overlooks, small picnic areas, interpretive media)</li> <li>• Development blends with natural and cultural environment</li> <li>• Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, barriers, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) may be necessary to protect sensitive resources</li> <li>• High accessibility</li> </ul>

PRELIMINARY MANAGEMENT ZONES continued			
	Resource Condition	Visitor Experience	Development
Backcountry Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural resources could be modified slightly to support visitor use, but tolerance for natural resource impacts would be low</li> <li>Cultural resources could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed, or allowed to molder</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate visitor encounters</li> <li>Visitors engaged in self-reliant, non-motorized outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (e.g., hiking, backpacking, backcountry camping, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting)</li> <li>High time commitment</li> <li>Moderate challenge and adventure</li> <li>Discovery area with minimal on-site interpretation</li> <li>Moderate off-site interpretation</li> <li>Low noise tolerance</li> <li>Low interaction with NPS staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low level of development to support visitor access to outdoor activities (e.g., trails, trailhead parking, marked routes, designated backcountry campsites, pit toilets, water pumps)</li> <li>Development would be unobtrusive and would blend with the natural environment</li> <li>Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, fencing, pedestrian paths) may be necessary to protect sensitive resources</li> <li>Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses</li> <li>Low accessibility</li> </ul>
Cultural Landscape Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural setting including historic buildings, structures, and other landscape characteristics and features which represent the evolution of the cultural resource, temporal change, and the continuum of time</li> <li>Cultural resources would be preserved or rehabilitated for visitor understanding and/or for compatible adaptive use</li> <li>Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape would be tolerated</li> <li>Natural resources that have been identified as important to the cultural landscape would be managed to perpetuate the cultural landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate visitor encounters</li> <li>Visitors engaged in sightseeing, recreational, and educational activities in a cultural setting (e.g., automobile, bicycle, walking, hiking tour)</li> <li>Moderate time commitment</li> <li>Moderate to high on-site interpretation</li> <li>Moderate off-site interpretation</li> <li>Moderate noise tolerance</li> <li>Moderate interaction with NPS staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate level of development to support visitor access and use (e.g., interpretive media, walkways, trails, small picnic areas, and restrooms)</li> <li>Development would be compatible with the cultural landscape</li> <li>Moderate accessibility</li> </ul>
Primitive Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural processes would take precedence over visitor accommodation</li> <li>Great emphasis on exotic species removal and containment</li> <li>Cultural resources could be preserved, removed, or allowed to molder</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low visitor encounters</li> <li>Visitors engaged in high solitude, off-trail, self-reliant, non-mechanized outdoor activities (e.g., hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, hunting, nature observation)</li> <li>High time commitment</li> <li>High challenge and adventure</li> <li>Discovery area with minimal on-site interpretation</li> <li>Moderate off-site interpretation</li> <li>Low noise tolerance</li> <li>Low interaction with NPS staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very low development for visitor accommodation (e.g., trails)</li> <li>Site hardening (e.g., boardwalks, primitive toilets, designated primitive campsites) would only be allowed if needed to protect sensitive resources</li> <li>Little evidence of human activity</li> <li>Low accessibility</li> </ul>
Ecologically Sensitive Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emphasis in this zone would be on the protection of natural processes and the overall character would be pristine</li> <li>Great emphasis on exotic species removal and containment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly restricted visitor use</li> <li>Very low visitor encounters</li> <li>No interpretation on-site; off-site interpretation focused on resource sensitivity</li> <li>Low noise tolerance</li> <li>Day use only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No development except as needed for resource protection</li> <li>Very little evidence of human activity</li> </ul>
Administrative Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located in previously disturbed areas, areas of low resource integrity, or areas where resources are relatively non-sensitive which could be modified for operational support</li> <li>Cultural resources could be adapted or rehabilitated</li> <li>Historic structures should be used first before new construction</li> <li>Natural resources could be moderately impacted for operational support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No visitor use</li> <li>NPS staff areas</li> <li>High noise tolerance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High level of development for operational support (e.g., administrative and maintenance facilities, employee housing)</li> <li>High accessibility</li> </ul>

## DECISION POINTS

Decision Points are the primary questions the general management plan must answer. These are based on public and agency issues and concerns and are a very important part of the planning process because they help focus the plan. We believe the GMP for Sleeping Bear Dunes needs to address the following questions:

- ❑ 1. In order to achieve the Lakeshore goal of resource protection and conservation, and to maintain the rich diversity of the Lakeshore, to what degree can we protect and conserve natural and cultural resources without compromising the significant values of each?
- ❑ 2. To what extent can we provide visitor access and use without exceeding acceptable impacts to Lakeshore resources and values?
- ❑ 3. Is the Lakeshore providing an appropriate range of experiences and opportunities to its visitors, or should they be decreased or increased?
- ❑ 4. To what extent can we protect Lakeshore values through agreements and/or partnerships with neighbors and inholders and/or boundary adjustments and land acquisition?

We used the decision points and your suggestions and those of the Lakeshore staff to develop the preliminary set of management zones and alternatives presented in this newsletter.

## EVALUATING AND RESPONDING TO THE PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

In the National Park Service (NPS) planning process we are required to assess alternative future conditions and management for the Lakeshore. Each alternative is built around an underlying concept that describes a possible direction for the future (complete descriptions on page 4).

The **Preliminary Alternatives** are:

- Alternative 1 – Distinct and Separate Units
- Alternative 2 – Pre-European Settlement/Old North Country
- Alternative 3 – A Variety of Recreational Opportunities
- Alternative 4 – Park Wide Interpretive Themes and Tours

Each alternative is then translated into specific actions by the application of “management zones” over the entire Lakeshore. Management zones describe how different areas of a park could be managed to achieve a variety of resource conditions and visitor experiences. The National Park Service would take different actions in different zones with regard to the types and levels of uses and facilities. These zones could be placed in different locations or configurations on the ground and could be similar to, or quite different from, existing conditions.

## PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

### ALTERNATIVE 1 DISTINCT AND SEPARATE UNITS

#### Concept

In this alternative, each of the six distinct geographic areas (units) of the Lakeshore would focus on a particular theme or set of themes. Each unit would have a primary orientation and interpretation facility with secondary, smaller orientation areas as needed. This alternative would disperse and decentralize uses, as visitors would seek out the experiences and services of most interest to them. For example, if visitors were interested in a primitive camping experience, they would focus on North Manitou Island. Visitors seeking an active recreation experience, with high visitor encounters and moderate development, would seek the Sleeping Bear Unit.

#### North Manitou Island Unit

On North Manitou Island the focus would be on the protection of natural processes, which would take precedence over visitor use. Virtually all of the island would be zoned “Primitive.” Visitor numbers would be low and visitor activities would primarily be camping and non-mechanized trail use. The existing campground north of the village would remain, but most camping would be dispersed. Cultural resources located in the “Cultural Landscape” zone would be preserved, rehabilitated, or adaptively used to support basic interpretive and orientation activities for the island. These resources include the North Manitou Island Lifesaving Station National Historic Landmark, the Sawmill Complex, and a portion of the Cottage Row Landscape. The existing campground would not be included in this zone. Cultural resources in the “Primitive” zone could be preserved, removed, or allowed to molder. Ferry service would continue to provide access for overnight users, but no day-use visitation would be accommodated.

#### South Manitou Island Unit

All of South Manitou Island would be zoned “Backcountry,” except for the Lighthouse Complex and the Village area, which would be zoned “Cultural Landscape.” Ferry schedules would continue to accommodate day and overnight use, so visitor numbers would be higher than on North Manitou Island. The principal visitor activities would be touring the historic village and lighthouse, backcountry camping, and non-motorized trail use. The three existing campgrounds would remain. The structures in the historic village and the lighthouse complex would be preserved, rehabilitated, or adaptively used to support interpretive and orientation activities for the island. Cultural resources in the “Backcountry” zone could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed, or allowed to molder.

#### Good Harbor Unit

This area has a wealth of cultural resources, bounded by natural areas; therefore, the primary theme for this unit would be cultural landscapes with a secondary theme of backcountry recreation.

The lands in the designated Port Oneida Rural Historic District and the Bufka/Kropp/Eitzen Proposed Cultural Landscape would be zoned “Cultural Landscape.” In these areas historic buildings, structures, and other landscape characteristics and features would be preserved or rehabilitated for visitor understanding, or adaptively used by the NPS and partners. Both areas offer numerous opportunities for interpretation of the area's history through a variety of tours, programs, and media, using secondary roads, hiking, and bicycle trails. The primary orientation and interpretive facility for the unit would be centrally located along M-22 in the Port Oneida area. A secondary, smaller orientation site would be provided in the Bufka/Kropp/Eitzen area.

The remainder of the unit would be zoned "Backcountry" and would focus on backcountry recreation. Consistent with this management zone, cultural resources could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed, or allowed to molder. Visitors would engage in various non-motorized outdoor activities including, hiking, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, and nature observation. The picnic area and trailhead parking at the Good Harbor Trail, the beach access sites at County Roads 651 and 669, and the Valley View backcountry campground would retain their existing uses, but use levels could be moderate. The access point at School Lake would remain, but only non-motorized craft would be permitted.

#### **Bow Lakes Unit**

This entire unit would be zoned "Primitive" to focus on protection of natural processes, which would take precedence over visitor use. Use levels would be low and the only visitor facilities would be trails and trailhead parking. To protect sensitive resources no camping would be permitted.

#### **Sleeping Bear Unit**

This unit has traditionally been the highest use area in the Lakeshore. That high level of activity would be accommodated in this alternative with an emphasis on recreational activities in a natural setting. Most of the unit would be zoned "Natural Resource Recreation." Typical uses would include hiking, bicycling, fishing, motor boating, canoeing, and horseback riding. New trails and other support facilities could be developed in the unit. Because of the high level of visitor use, hunting would only be permitted in designated areas where it would not conflict with other visitor uses. The primary orientation and interpretive facilities for the unit would be at the D.H. Day Campground, Glen Haven area, and the Dune Climb. These areas would be zoned "Visitor Services." Structures in Glen Haven would be rehabilitated to provide for visitor education and orientation, or could be adaptively used for by the NPS or partners for facilities and services to support recreation and interpretation activities in the unit. Cultural resources outside of the Glen Haven area could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed, or allowed to molder. The sensitive dune areas would be zoned "Backcountry". The Stocking Scenic Drive would be zoned "Scenic Corridor" and existing uses and development would remain. An area on M-22 in the southern part of the unit would be zoned "Administrative" to allow for a high level of development for operational support.

#### **Platte Unit**

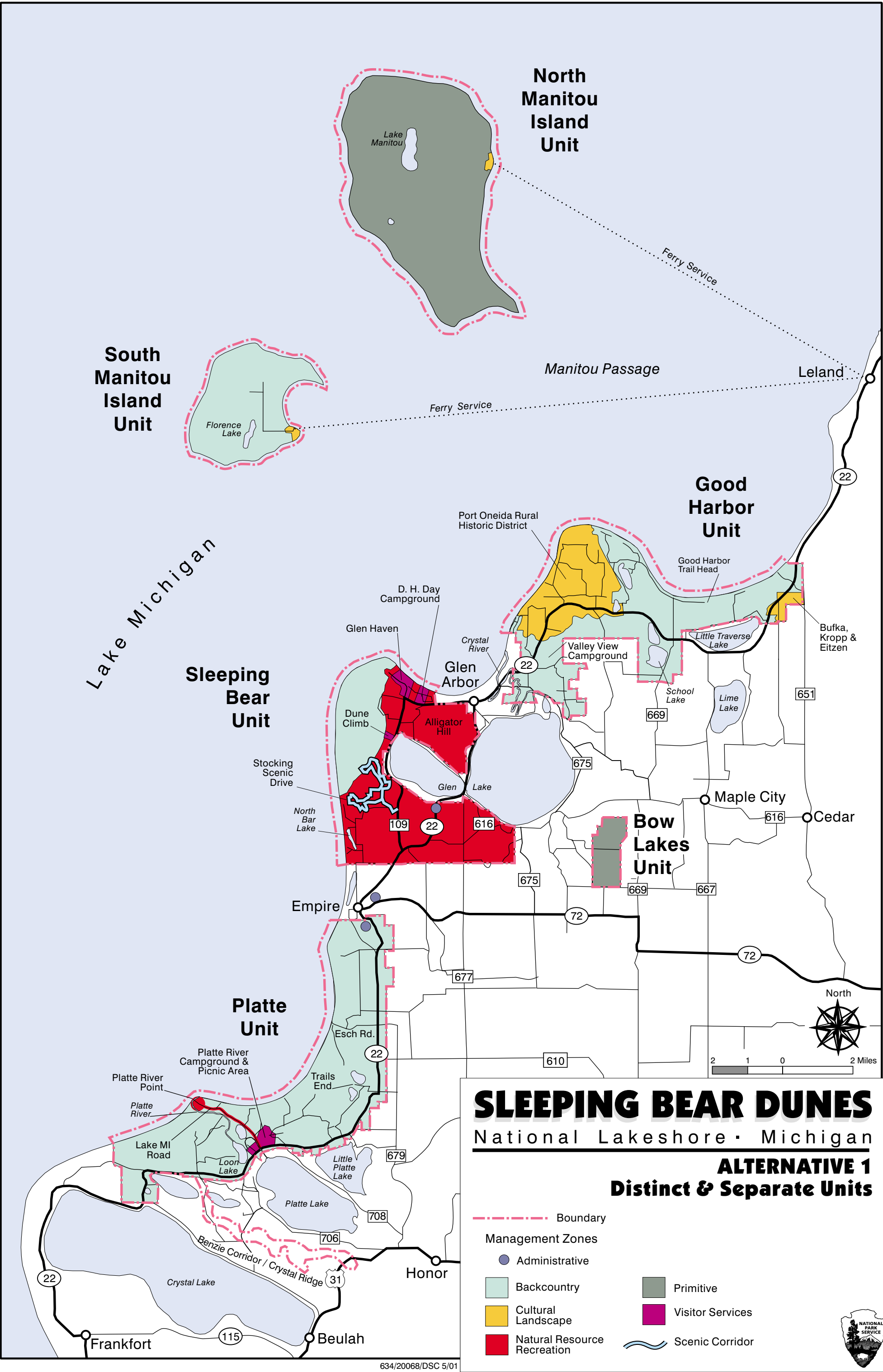
The focus of this unit would be backcountry recreation, and visitors would have opportunities to experience diverse natural settings. Most areas would be zoned "Backcountry" to accommodate moderate use levels and minimal facilities, and a few areas would provide for higher use levels and more developed visitor facilities. Cultural resources in this zone could be preserved, rehabilitated, removed, or allowed to molder. Additional trails for hiking or bicycling could be developed. The primary orientation and interpretive facilities ("Visitor Services" zone) for this unit would be located in the area of the Platte River campground/picnic area and Loon Lake, along with the existing facilities. The existing facilities and activities would also remain along Michigan Road and at the mouth of the Platte River. This area would be zoned "Natural Resources Recreation." A secondary, smaller orientation area would be established at the south end of the unit. Small, existing developments at Esch Beach and Trails End would remain.

The Empire Maintenance Facility, in the north end of the unit, would remain and be zoned "Administrative." In this alternative, the NPS would seek legislation to revise the authorized boundary to delete the Crystal Ridge/Benzie Corridor area from the Lakeshore.

#### **Administrative Offices**

Because each of the units would have a primary orientation and interpretive facility with secondary orientation areas, as needed, there would be no central visitor center for the Lakeshore. The existing administrative/visitor center building in Empire would be converted to administrative use only.





**SLEEPING BEAR DUNES**  
National Lakeshore • Michigan  
**ALTERNATIVE 1**  
**Distinct & Separate Units**

- Boundary
- Management Zones
- Administrative
  - Backcountry
  - Cultural Landscape
  - Natural Resource Recreation
  - Primitive
  - Visitor Services
  - Scenic Corridor



## ALTERNATIVE 2 PRE-EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT/OLD NORTH COUNTRY

### Concept

This alternative emphasizes a parkwide theme of preservation of natural features, wildlife, old-growth forest habitat, and visitor experience and enjoyment of an undeveloped land. Preservation of the natural environment would take precedence over all other activities and disturbed areas would be restored to natural conditions to the extent possible. Minimal development would be permitted, and only then to support entry into the natural environment. Because the alternative emphasizes natural resources preservation and solitude, use levels would be low in most areas of the Lakeshore. The principal recreational activities would be primitive camping and non-mechanized trail use. Facilities at five areas would provide primary interpretation and orientation services: the Platte River campground and picnic area, the Glen Haven complex, a central visitor center in the middle portion of the park (exact location to be determined), South Manitou Island Village, and North Manitou Island Village. The primary access roads through the Lakeshore (the southern portion of M-22, M-109 around the west side of Little Glen Lake, and the northern portion of

M-22) would be zoned "Scenic Corridor" to provide access throughout the mainland for this low use alternative. Roads would be obtained from the counties, as they become available, and would be used as hiking trails, as needed or restored to natural conditions.

### North Manitou Island Unit

Virtually all of North Manitou Island would be managed with a focus on the protection of natural processes with some accommodation for primitive recreation. Visitor numbers would be low and the primary visitor activities would be primitive camping and non-mechanized trail use. Most of the island would be zoned "Primitive," except for the "Ecologically Sensitive" sand dune and sand spit areas, and the "Cultural Landscape" zone, which would include the North Manitou Island Lifesaving Station National Historic Landmark, the Sawmill Complex, and a portion of the Cottage Row Landscape. The existing campground would not be included in this zone. These cultural resources would be preserved or rehabilitated for uses related to visitor interpretation and orientation or resource protection. Cultural resources in the "Primitive" zone could be preserved, removed, or allowed to molder. Ferry service to the island would be limited to overnight users; no day-use visitation would be accommodated.

### South Manitou Island Unit

As on North Manitou Island, most of South Manitou would be zoned "Primitive" and managed with a focus on the protection of natural processes with some accommodation for primitive recreation. Non-mechanized trails and primitive campsites would be the only visitor facilities on most of the island. When roads are obtained from Leelanau County, they would be used as hiking trails, as needed, or restored to natural conditions. The dunes on the western side of the island would be zoned "Ecologically Sensitive," allowing for very little evidence of human activity. The Village and Lighthouse Complex would be zoned "Cultural Landscape" and structures in this zone would be preserved or rehabilitated for purposes related to visitor interpretation and orientation or resource protection. Cultural resources in the "Primitive" zone could be preserved, removed, or allowed to molder. Ferry service to the island would accommodate both overnight and day-use.

### Good Harbor Unit

All of this unit would be zoned "Primitive" and managed with a focus on the protection of natural processes with some accommodation for primitive recreation and low visitor numbers. Non-mechanized trails and associated trail-heads, and primitive campsites would be the only visitor facilities in this unit. Cultural resources in this zone could be preserved, removed, or allowed to molder. Existing NPS developments on Lake Michigan at County Roads 669 and 651, and the Good Harbor picnic area would be removed once roads were obtained from the county. Only non-mechanized access would be allowed to School Lake

### **Bow Lakes Unit**

This entire unit would be zoned "Ecologically Sensitive" and the protection of natural processes would take precedence over visitor use. There would be very little evidence of human activity and no development except as needed for resource protection.

### **Sleeping Bear Unit**

Most of this unit would be zoned "Primitive" and "Ecologically Sensitive" and managed for natural resources protection. Overall visitor numbers would be low with the major activities being non-mechanized trail use. The dune areas near North Bar Lake and west of the Dune Climb would be zoned "Ecologically Sensitive" to emphasize the protection of natural processes. Existing trails in the "Primitive" zone would remain, but trails could be added or eliminated in the future, depending on resource management and visitor use needs.

Glen Haven would be zoned "Cultural Landscape" and structures in this zone would be preserved or rehabilitated for purposes related to visitor interpretation and orientation or resource protection. The D.H. Day Campground would be zoned "Visitor Services" and the current facilities and activities would remain. The existing developments at the Stocking Scenic Drive would remain and be zoned "Scenic Corridor," but access to the drive would be via shuttle during the peak season. Visitors would use the existing parking area located near the entrance to the drive to access the shuttle service. The Dune Climb would be zoned "Natural Resource Recreation" to accommodate higher use levels.

### **Platte Unit**

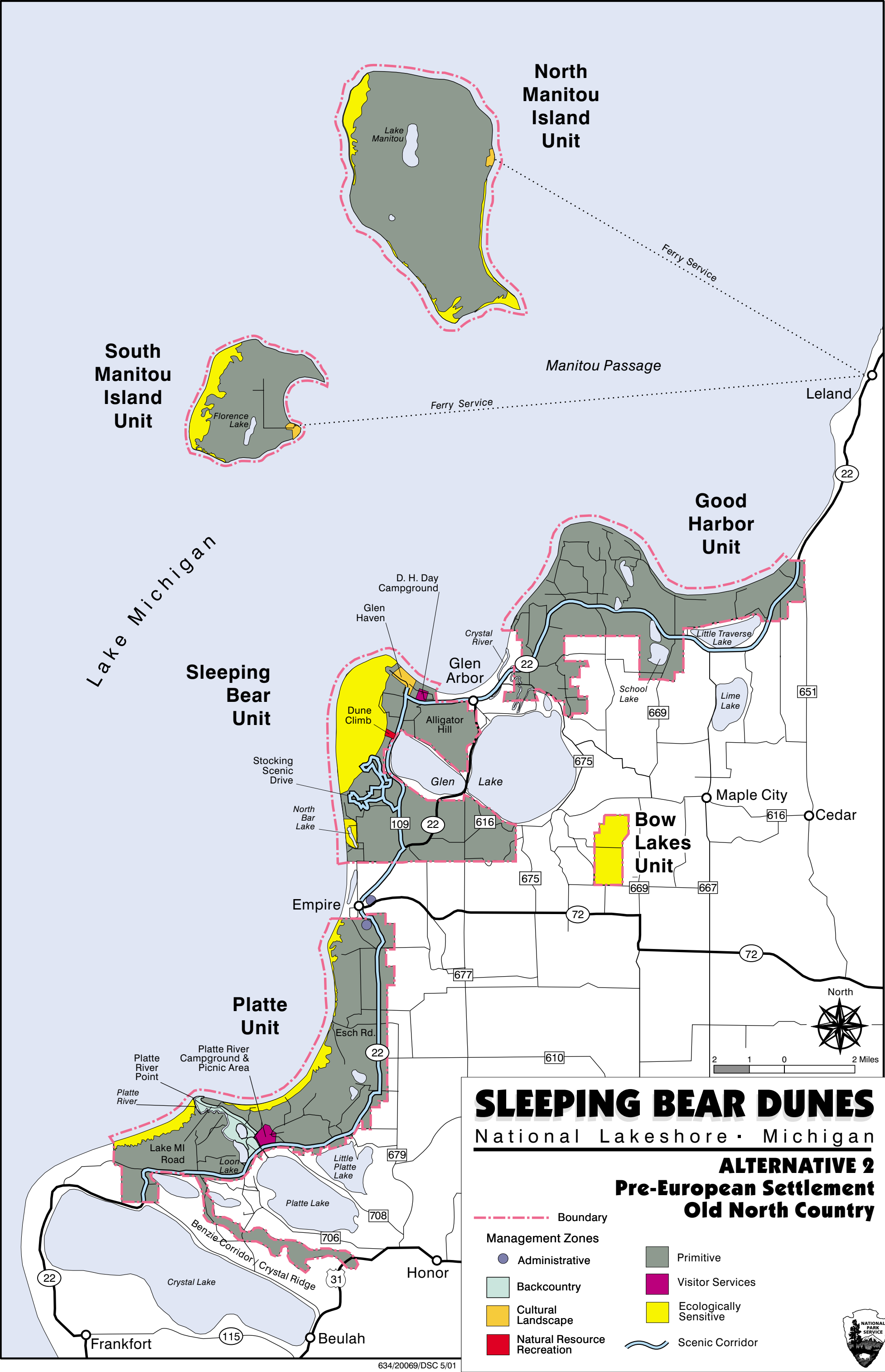
Most of this unit would be zoned "Primitive" and managed for natural resources protection. Overall use levels would be low. The primary activities would be non-mechanized trail use and primitive camping. In keeping with the primitive nature of this alternative some existing developments would be removed and others would be reduced in size. Cultural resources in this zone could be preserved, removed, or allowed to molder. Some areas along the Lake Michigan shoreline would be zoned "Ecologically Sensitive" to emphasize the protection of natural processes and promote a pristine character.

Lands immediately adjacent to Lake Michigan Road would be zoned "Backcountry." Along the road natural resources values would be emphasized and some existing modern facilities would be removed or reduced in size. NPS facilities at the mouth of Platte River would be removed (township facilities would not be affected). Parking at Loon Lake would be reduced. Only non-motorized vessels would be allowed on the Platte River and Loon Lake. The existing facilities at Platte River campground/picnic area would be gradually converted to a rustic development and would continue to provide orientation and interpretive services for the south end of the park. This area would be zoned "Visitor Services."

The Crystal Ridge/Benzie Corridor would be acquired by the Lakeshore as a wildlife corridor, to protect resources from development. Hiking trails could be established, consistent with resource protection goals.

### **Administrative Offices**

The primary interpretation and orientation facility would be a visitor center located somewhere in the central area of the park (exact location to be determined). Administrative offices would be located at the same facility.



## ALTERNATIVE 3 A VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Concept

In this alternative a variety of recreational opportunities would be offered to Lakeshore visitors. The activities would be diverse and dispersed. Some highly active types of recreation would be offered in specific areas. Access to Lake Michigan would be optimized.

### North Manitou Island Unit

Most of North Manitou would be zoned "Backcountry." Visitors numbers could be moderate and visitor activities would primarily be camping and non-motorized trail use. The "Cultural Landscape" zone would include the Manitou Island Association Landscape, North Manitou Island Lifesaving Station National Historic Landmark, the Sawmill Complex, the Cottage Row Landscape, the Beuham (Frank) Orchard, Bournique's house and cemetery, and the Swenson barn, as well as the existing Village Campground. Cultural resources in this zone would be preserved or rehabilitated for visitor understanding and/or for compatible adaptive use. The village area would serve as the interpretation and orientation center for the island. Sensitive sand dune and sand spit areas would be zoned "Ecologically Sensitive." This alternative would include expanded ferry service to offer day-use opportunities.

### South Manitou Island Unit

Much of South Manitou Island would be zoned "Backcountry," with moderate visitor numbers and camping and hiking as the primary activities. The sensitive dunes on the western side would be zoned "Ecologically Sensitive" allowing for very little evidence of human activity. The island would provide a mix of natural and cultural interpretive opportunities; the lighthouse complex and historic village, as well as the historic farm loop would be interpreted as cultural landscapes and zoned in that manner. The historic village would serve as the interpretation and orientation center for the island.

### Good Harbor Unit

This unit has a wealth of cultural resources, bounded by natural areas, and many access points to Lake Michigan. The majority of Port Oneida Historic District and Bufka/Kropp/Eitzen cultural landscapes would be zoned "Cultural Landscape." The zoned areas, however, would be smaller than those defined in alternatives 1 and 4, to reflect the emphasis on recreation. In this zone, historic buildings, structures, and other landscape characteristics and features would be preserved or rehabilitated for visitor understanding or adaptively used by the NPS and partners.

Most of the remainder of the unit would focus on backcountry recreation. Visitors would engage in various non-motorized outdoor activities including, hiking, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, and nature observation. The access point at School Lake would remain, but only non-motorized craft would be permitted. The beach access sites at County Roads 651 and 669, the picnic area and trailhead parking at the Good Harbor Trail, would be zoned "Natural Resource Recreation" and could be improved with more facilities. The sensitive active dune area at Pyramid Point and the dunes along Lake Michigan at the eastern end of the unit would be zoned "Ecologically Sensitive."

### Bow Lakes Unit

This entire unit would be zoned "Primitive" to focus on protection of natural processes, which would take precedence over visitor use. Use levels would be low and the only visitor facilities would be trails and trailhead parking. No camping would be permitted.

### **Sleeping Bear Unit**

This unit has traditionally been the highest use area in the Lakeshore. That high level of activity would be accommodated in this alternative with an emphasis on recreational activities in a natural setting. The unit would be zoned to support a variety of recreational activities. Alligator Hill, the Scenic Drive, the Dune Climb, and a Lake Michigan access east of the D.H. Day Campground would be zoned "Natural Resource Recreation." Typical uses in this zone would include hiking, bicycling, fishing, motor boating, canoeing, and horseback riding. New trails and other support facilities could be developed, including a boat access site on Lake Michigan.

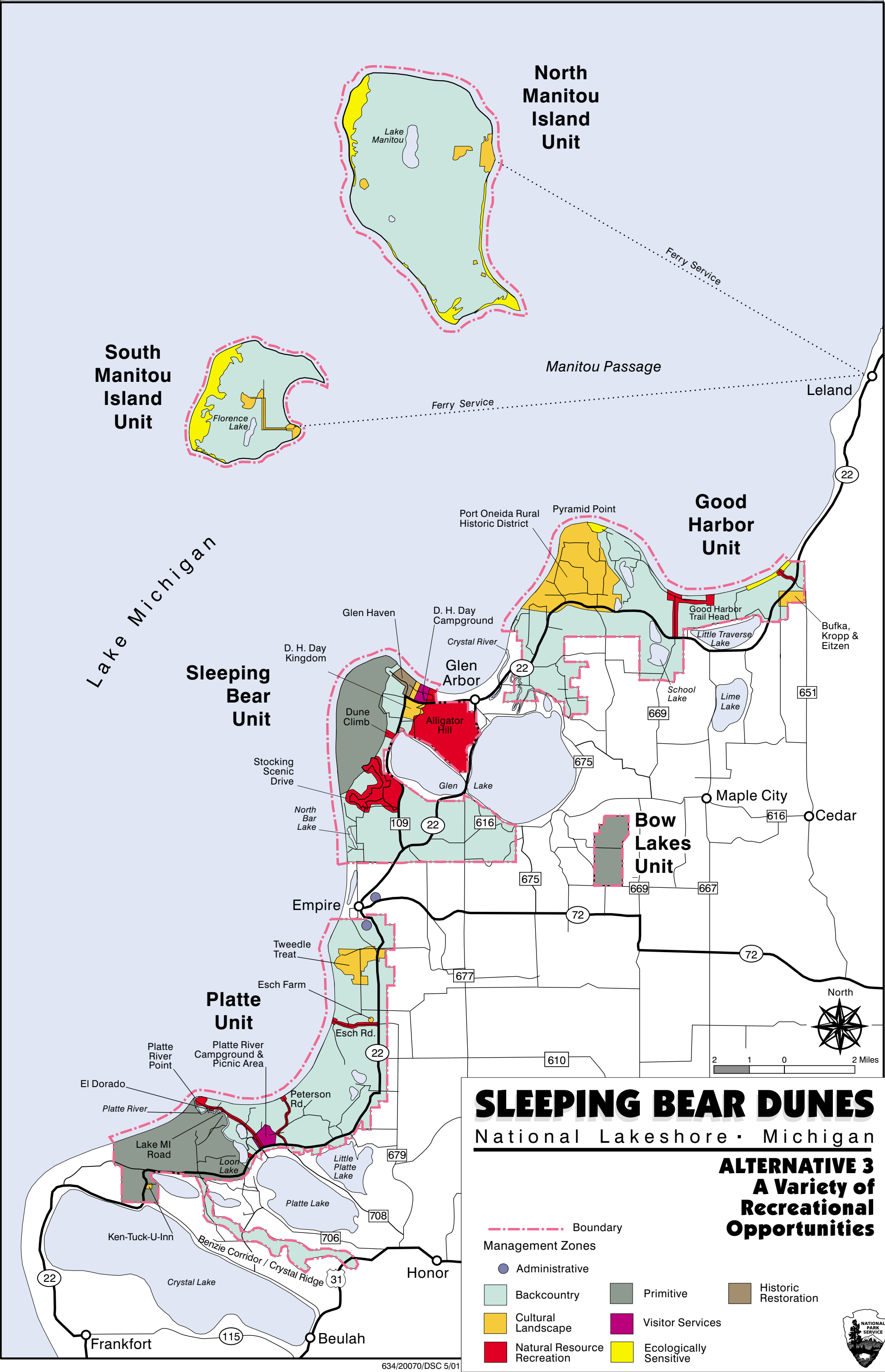
The primary orientation and interpretive facilities for the unit would be at the D.H. Day Campground. This area would be zoned "Visitor Services." Structures in Glen Haven would be zoned "Historic Restoration" and restored to provide for visitor education. The proposed D.H. Day Kingdom cultural landscape would be zoned "Cultural Landscape" to provide preservation or rehabilitation of cultural resources. The sensitive dune areas would be zoned "Primitive" and natural processes would take precedence over visitor accommodation. The remainder of the unit would be zoned "Backcountry" to provide a variety of self-reliant, non-motorized activities.

### **Platte Unit**

Most areas north of the Platte River would be zoned "Backcountry." Visitors would engage in various non-motorized outdoor activities including hiking, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, and nature observation. Most areas south of the Platte River would be zoned "Primitive" and managed for natural resources protection. Overall use levels would be moderate. The primary activities would be non-mechanized trail use and primitive camping. Cultural resources at Tweedle/Treat, Esch Farm, and the Ken-Tuck-U-Inn would be zoned as "Cultural Landscape" to allow for preservation or rehabilitation activities and higher use levels. Lake Michigan access points at Esch Beach, Peterson Road, and Platte Point would be zoned "Natural Resource Recreation" and improved to provide better lake access. The El Dorado access point would also be zoned "Natural Resource Recreation" to provide for better visitor accommodation. The Loon Lake access would be zoned "Natural Resource Recreation" and would remain as it currently is. The Platte River campground/picnic area would be zoned "Visitor Services" and would function as the primary orientation and interpretation facility in the unit. The Benzie Corridor/Crystal Ridge would be zoned "Backcountry" to provide non-motorized trails to scenic overlooks.

### **Administrative Offices**

The primary interpretation and orientation facility would be the existing visitor center/administrative building in Empire.





## ALTERNATIVE 4

### PARK WIDE INTERPRETIVE THEMES AND TOURS

#### Concept

In this alternative the Lakeshore would be unified by comprehensive interpretive themes (for example, geology, history, natural features, and scenery) integrated throughout the entire Lakeshore. Visitors would have the opportunity to experience thematic tours organized around specific topics. Tour routes could include road, trail, or water routes that would be marked and interpreted. Visitors could follow tour routes on their own, or participate in guided tours in some areas. The Lakeshore would have one primary orientation and interpretive center and several, smaller orientation facilities to direct visitors on their interpretive and recreational endeavors. The Lakeshore would rely upon partnerships with private entities (for example, ferry and/or bus operators, nonprofit associations) and local units of government (for example, chambers of commerce, county and state road administrators) to accomplish some of the goals of this alternative.

#### North Manitou Island Unit

North Manitou Island would continue to offer visitors overnight camping opportunities, but would also offer day-use opportunities through expanded ferry service. Visitors could explore the island's natural or cultural resources through expanded interpretive activities, and as a part of interpreted boat tours. The "Cultural Landscape" zone would include the Manitou Island Association Landscape, North Manitou Island Lifesaving Station National Historic Landmark, the Sawmill Complex, the Cottage Row Landscape, the Beuham (Frank) Orchard, Bournique's house and cemetery, the Swenson barn and the existing Village Campground. Cultural resources in this zone would be preserved or rehabilitated for NPS operational uses. The village area would serve as the interpretation and orientation center for the island. The remainder of the island would be zoned "Backcountry" and would focus on activities such as hiking, backpacking, and camping.

#### South Manitou Island Unit

As with North Manitou Island, South Manitou Island would offer overnight camping and day-use opportunities through expanded ferry service and interpretive tours. A mix of natural and cultural interpretive themes would be presented on the island. Much of the island would be zoned "Backcountry," with moderate visitor numbers and camping and hiking as the primary activities. The lighthouse complex would be zoned "Historic Restoration" and would provide for structured interpretive activities. The historic village and farm loop would be zoned "Cultural Landscape." In the farm loop, visitors would engage in various non-motorized outdoor activities including hiking, bicycling, and viewing natural and cultural surroundings. The historic village would serve as the interpretation and orientation center for the island.

#### Good Harbor Unit

This area would provide a mix of natural, cultural, and scenic opportunities through the parkwide thematic tours. Cultural resources in the Port Oneida Rural Historic District, the Bufka/Kropp/Eitzen proposed cultural landscape, and the Shalda Log Cabin would be zoned as "Cultural Landscape" and interpreted to visitors. These areas would also function as orientation areas for visitors. Access to natural resources would be accommodated through improved facilities, parking, and interpretive media at the terminus of County Roads 651 and 669 and the access at School Lake. These areas would be zoned "Natural Resource Recreation." The remainder of the unit would be zoned "Backcountry," where visitors would engage in various non-motorized outdoor activities including, hiking, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, and nature observation.

#### Bow Lakes Unit

This unit would be zoned "Backcountry." Trails and trailhead parking would be developed to allow for expanded interpretive opportunities of this rich natural and geologic environment. The area would be included on tour routes with natural history themes.



### Sleeping Bear Unit

Diverse visitor opportunities would be provided in this area, linked by roadway and trail interpretive tour routes. The Dune Climb would be zoned "Natural Resources Recreation." Stocking Scenic Drive would be zoned "Scenic Corridor" and would continue to provide scenic and interpretive opportunities. Most of the cultural resources in Glen Haven Village and the proposed D.H. Day Kingdom cultural landscape (including the old narrow gauge railroad grade) would be zoned "Cultural Landscape" and would be preserved or rehabilitated for NPS operational needs. The Maritime Museum Complex would be zoned "Historic Restoration" to provide structured interpretive activities. The D.H. Day Campground would be zoned "Visitor Services" and facilities would be modernized to provide greater visitor amenities. The remainder of this unit would be zoned "Backcountry" and would emphasize natural history themes and backcountry opportunities such as hiking, nature observation, and hunting. An area on M-22 in the southern part of the unit would be zoned "Administrative" to allow for a high level of development for operational support.

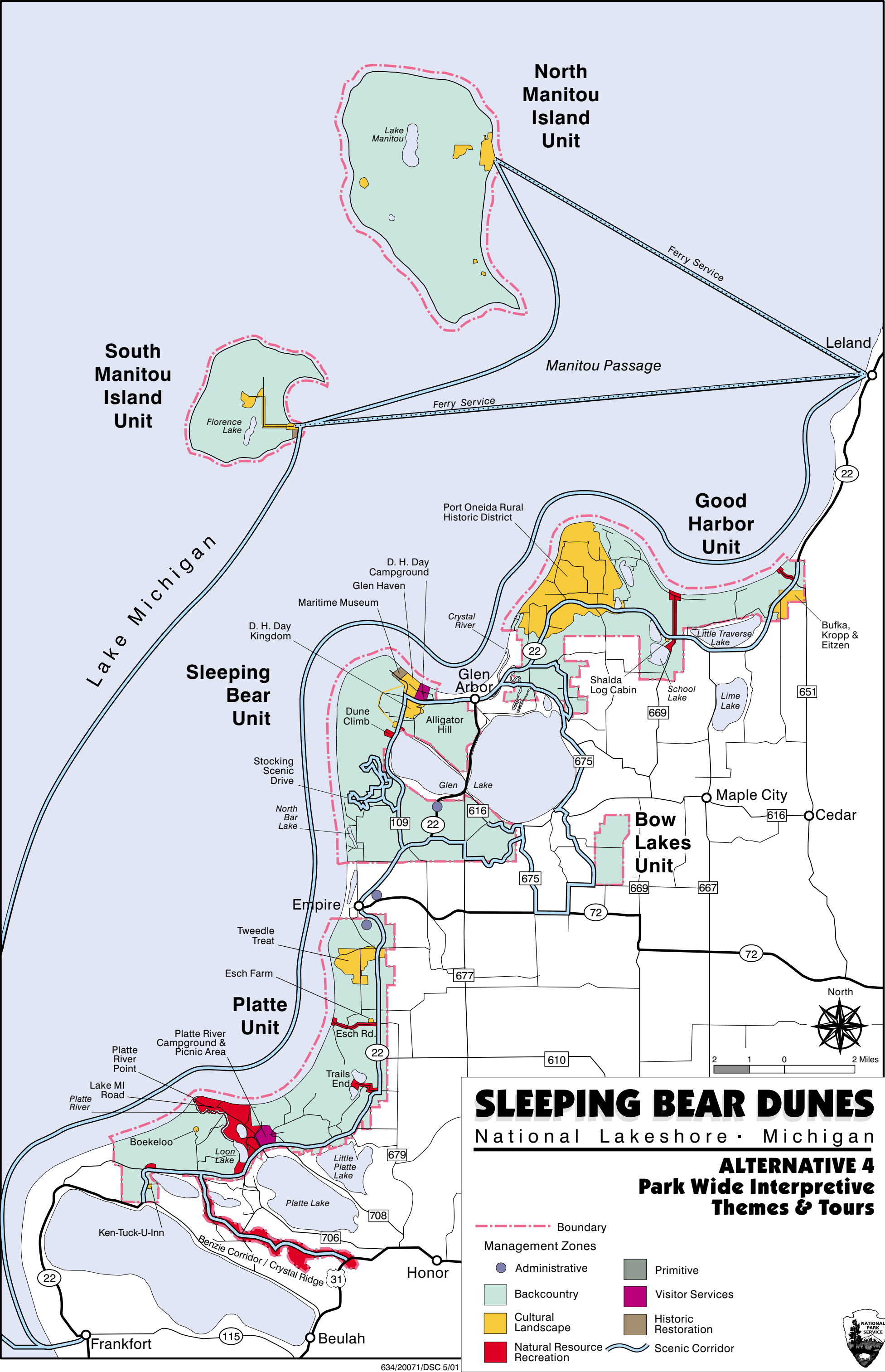
### Platte Unit

Much of this unit would emphasize backcountry opportunities such as hiking, backpacking, and backcountry camping and natural history interpretive themes. However, there would also be opportunities for cultural interpretation in the Tweedle/Treat, Esch Farm, Boekeloo, and Ken-Tuck-U-Inn cultural sites, all zoned "Cultural Landscape." In these "Cultural Landscape" zones, structures would be preserved or rehabilitated for NPS operational needs. Facilities in the Platte River area, including the mouth of the river, along Lake Michigan Road, Loon Lake, the picnic area, and the campground, would remain, zoned as "Natural Resource Recreation." Additional facilities, such as bike trails or canoe/kayak routes, could be developed to broaden tour route opportunities. Improved facilities, parking, and interpretation at Esch Beach and Trails End would provide access to natural resource areas. These areas would also be zoned "Natural Resource Recreation."

In this alternative, the Benzie/Crystal Ridge Corridor would be zoned "Natural Resources Recreation." The Lakeshore would acquire the corridor and vehicular, bicycle, and/or hiking opportunities would be provided along this scenic ridge, which would be integrated into the park-wide tour routes.

### Administrative Offices

A primary orientation and interpretive facility for the Lakeshore would be developed within either the Sleeping Bear or Platte unit in a location (not yet determined) that would provide convenient access to primary Lakeshore resource areas. Visitors would learn about the various thematic tour routes, guided tours, and other opportunities available at the Lakeshore. The existing administrative/visitor center building in Empire would be converted to administrative use only.



# SLEEPING BEAR DUNES

National Lakeshore • Michigan

## ALTERNATIVE 4

### Park Wide Interpretive Themes & Tours



## THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND WILDERNESS AT SLEEPING BEAR

Through analysis and planning that occurred in the 1970s, five areas of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, totaling approximately 30,000 acres on the mainland and the islands, were found to qualify for congressional designation as wilderness. The National Park Service documented this wilderness recommendation, but no action has been taken to date by Congress to formally designate these lands as wilderness. In 1982, the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks incorporated the wilderness recommendation into the Act of Oct. 22 (96 Stat. 1724, 16 U.X.C. 460x-15). This act directs the Department of the Interior to maintain the “existing wilderness character and potential” of the areas included in the recommendation “for inclusion in the national Wilderness Preservation System”. This act, as well as established NPS management policy, requires Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to manage all lands contained in the recommendation as wilderness, pending future action by Congress.

Management as wilderness includes the following kinds of management prescriptions:

- take no action that would diminish the wilderness suitability of an area possessing wilderness characteristics
- make management decisions in expectation of eventual wilderness designation and apply the concepts of “minimum requirements” (for example using only the “minimum tool” necessary to accomplish management actions) for the administration of the area
- seek to remove any existing non-conforming conditions that could preclude wilderness designation

All alternatives presented and assessed in the General Management Plan must be consistent with the prescribed management of the recommended wilderness areas. However, through the GMP process, the National Park Service may suggest minor alterations to the recommended wilderness boundary. If the Lakeshore suggests alterations to the proposed boundary, the public will have the opportunity to comment. The boundary can be formally modified only through an act of Congress, and GMP proposals that would require changes in the wilderness recommendation could not be implemented until such congressional action.

## RELATIONSHIP OF THE GMP PROCESS TO OTHER PARK ACTIVITIES

The Lakeshore is involved in several other important planning efforts that will affect and be affected by the GMP. Two of these are highlighted here:

### Draft Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)

The preparation of this important implementation plan was begun in February 1998. Many of you participated in its development. The Draft Historic Properties Management Plan details strategies for conservation and use of historic structures and landscapes. In order to assure that the HPMP is closely aligned with the GMP, we will keep the HPMP in draft form until the GMP reaches a similar stage of development. As the GMP begins to take shape, we will keep you up to date about the relationship between the two planning processes. The draft HPMP has been used as a reference document in the development of the draft alternatives. There are, however, draft alternatives that are not consistent with the draft HPMP. Once the GMP is finalized, the draft HPMP will be revised, as needed, so it is not in conflict with the GMP.

### Transportation Studies

The Lakeshore has received funding to explore the desirability and feasibility of alternative transportation strategies within and around the park, and to better understand visitor circulation. The studies will examine transportation issues related to South and North Manitou islands, overall lakeshore access and circulation, and vehicle crowding issues at several specific locations. Fieldwork was conducted under contract in August 2000 and a draft document was completed in January 2001. The study will provide information to support the GMP.

## DEFINITION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES TREATMENTS

The four primary cultural landscape treatments identified in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* are:

**Preservation** is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new constructions. New additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

**Rehabilitation** is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical or cultural values.

**Restoration** is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

**Reconstruction** is defined as the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

## PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES SCHEDULED

The Lakeshore has scheduled a series of open houses for the week of June 11th to allow the public to ask questions and provide comments about the planning process and the preliminary alternatives. Three open houses are scheduled:

- **Monday, June 11, 2001**  
Holiday Inn - South / Convention Center  
6820 South Cedar Street  
Lansing, Michigan  
517-694-8123
- **Tuesday, June 12, 2001**  
Traverse Area District Library Meeting Room  
610 Woodmere (near Eighth Street)  
Traverse City, Michigan  
231-932-8500
- **Wednesday, June 13, 2001**  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore  
Visitor Center Auditorium  
9922 Front Street  
Highway M-72  
Empire, Michigan  
231-326-5134

**All open houses will run from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.  
Please join us.**

## The Planning Process

1	Collect Data and Identify Issues	Winter 2000 - Spring 2000
We Are Here	2	Develop and Evaluate Alternatives Summer 2000 - Summer 2001
	3	Prepare and Publish Draft Plan/EIS Fall 2001 - Fall 2002
	4	Revise and Publish Plan Winter 2002 - Spring 2003